

fewer than six Senate committees and includes the input of nearly every Member of the Senate. The vote tallies you are seeing on this bill are from another era, maybe the John Warner era—24 to 4 in the Commerce Committee, 21 to 1 in Foreign Relations. The Senate, as a whole, voted to proceed to the bill by 86 to 11.

And the process here on the floor is no less bipartisan. I have heard it from Members on both sides of the aisle: Let's try to do regular order. Let's get on the floor and do amendments the way we used to.

Well, we are doing just that. We have already considered 10 amendments—more than I can remember in a long time—8 of which were led by Republicans. So it is hardly that the Democratic majority is only doing what we want. Three Republican amendments were adopted by voice vote last night. I mean, who would have ever thought that the Senate would adopt an amendment from Senator RAND PAUL by voice vote? We did it.

So, look, we are moving forward in a very bipartisan way. We will consider at least another three amendments of the bill today, and if both sides continue in good faith to schedule amendment votes and debate, and there are no eleventh-hour decisions to delay or obstruct, there is no reason we can't finish this bill by the end of the week. That is my intention.

Taking a step back, the depth of bipartisanship on this bill reveals two things. One, Members want to work together if given a chance. This bill came through the regular order. Senate committees drove the process, and here on the floor, Members have participated in robust debate and a robust amendment process. But, second, and maybe even more importantly, it reveals that Democrats and Republicans are united in our efforts to preserve and maintain American leadership on the world stage.

We all know that investing in sciences, innovation, and technology holds the key to our future—the key. It has been one of the great hallmarks of America from 1950 on, maybe even earlier, from Thomas Edison on, maybe even earlier than that. But today—today—we have let that lag. We became far too complacent. The United States commits less than 1 percent of its GDP toward basic science research—1 percent. That is the fault of government, but it is also the fault of the private sector. The world is so competitive, and global competition is so severe. Companies feel they can't invest as much in the kind of research that might payoff profits 5 or 10 years down the road.

So while all this is happening, the Chinese Communist Party spends nearly 2.5 percent on research and has pledged to the world that they will increase scientific investments by 10 percent in the future. If that happens unchallenged, the days of America leading the world in science and innova-

tion, the days of America being the leading economic power of the world will be over, and we will regret it and look back 10 or 20 years from now and say: Why the heck didn't we do this? It was so simple and easy.

But we have to.

I heard my friend from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, say that in 1990, the United States produced 37 percent of the world's semiconductors—a technology we invented. Today, we produce less than 12 percent, and it is going down. Some have predicted—many have predicted—that at this rate, we will produce less than 6 percent of them a few years from now. If we don't step up our game right now, we will fall behind the rest of the world.

That is what this legislation is ultimately about—righting the ship, investing in science and tech, so we can outinnovate, outproduce, and outcompete the world in the industries of the future, some of which we know and some of which we don't even know, but we know that scientific investment will produce them. And if we are at the forefront of this, we will have America continue to be the leader in these new technologies yet unimagined.

Around the globe, authoritarian governments smell blood in the water. They believe that squabbling democracies like ours can't come together and invest in national priorities the way a top-down, centralized, and authoritarian government can. They are rooting for us to fail so they can grab the mantle of global economic leadership and own innovations that will define the next century. We cannot—we cannot—we must not let that happen. I do not believe we will let it happen.

The bipartisan—the strongly bipartisan—work on this competition bill has revealed that in this Chamber we still believe—Democrats and Republicans alike, united and moving forward—that another American century lies on the horizon.

Let's move forward. Let's finish our work and pass the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act as soon as possible, certainly before the end of the month this week.

#### JANUARY 6 COMMISSION

Mr. SCHUMER. On another matter, the January 6 Commission. Last night, I filed cloture on the House-passed legislation to create an independent Commission and report on the events of January 6.

There is an obvious and urgent need to establish such a Commission. What happened on January 6 was a travesty, the culmination of months of deliberate lies about our elections, propagated by the former President, a dishonest man, and his allies.

The Capitol was breached for the first time since the War of 1812. Capitol Police officers were brutalized. One was killed in the attack. I shouldn't need to remind this Chamber of the scene on January 6. We were all there.

At one point, I was within 20 feet of these White supremacist hooligans.

That day continues to haunt us. Faith in our elections, in our democracy has nosedived. Listen to this. In a variety of polls, more than half of the Republican Party believes the election was rigged and Joe Biden isn't the real President. That is a flashing red warning sign for our democracy. If the American people, if a large chunk of them believe the Big Lie, if the majority of Americans believe that our elections are not on the level, we are on the road to ruin. This grand, beautiful, wonderful, several-century-old democracy could teeter when people don't believe it is fair, when people don't believe the elections are on the level.

All the fighting in the past, all the internecine fighting—I can't remember a moment in history where people doubted the veracity of our elections. They may not have liked the outcome, but they believed they were on the level. We stop believing that and, believe me, it will spread. One side will feel that way one day and then the other side will feel that way the next day, and then nobody will believe in this democracy.

But right now, unfortunately, there is a lack of courage from the other side when it comes to defeating these lies. Down the hall, House Republicans have started to make ridiculous claims about January 6—defending the mob, blaming antifa for the attack, pretending the entire event was just a peaceful protest.

Congresswoman CHENEY, a brave woman, was literally fired for saying that Joe Biden is President—for just saying the simple fact that Joe Biden is President.

We need an independent, trusted, bipartisan Commission now more than ever. It is critically important to establish a trusted record of events and begin to restore faith in our democracy. And I think our Republican colleagues know it or at least they used to because over the last few months, a funny thing has happened. Our Senate Republican colleagues have gone from mostly supporting the idea of an independent Commission to mostly opposing one. And they can't seem to get their story straight.

Over the weekend, one Senate Republican told a national news program that it was "too early" to establish a Commission on January 6, even though more than 5 months have gone by. Another Republican Senator worried the Commission's work would end up "dragging on indefinitely."

Which is it, too early, too late? Of course, both concerns are silly. There is no justification for a waiting period, and the legislation itself includes a firm deadline for the Commission to issue a report no later than December 31 of this year.

One Republican said that he wouldn't vote for a January 6 Commission "until it was bipartisan." Of course, the legislation we are talking about

was negotiated by the Republican ranking member on the House Homeland Security Committee, the committee of jurisdiction; House Democrats accepted every change requested by the House Republican leadership; and the bill received 35 votes in the House and, likely, a lot more if House leadership didn't flip their position at the last minute.

Despite the pressure of Donald Trump to go along with his Big Lie, 35—35—House Republicans voted to go forward. They are brave, should be commended, and it shows that this truly is a national need, a bipartisan national need.

Another Republican Senator, in worried tones, said the January 6 Commission should be more like the 9/11 Commission and be chaired by outside independent investigators appointed by both parties. Hello. I hate to break it to my Republican colleagues, but the legislation passed by the House is modeled after the 9/11 Commission and, you guessed it, would be chaired by outside independent personnel appointed by both parties. They say they want that in the bill. It is in the bill.

So what is really going on here? Why the various, shifting reasons why Republicans can't support a simple bipartisan, down-the-middle, 50-50 Commission to report on a very serious event in our Nation's history?

Well, it seems the real reason has nothing to do with the structure of the Commission, nothing to do with the details of the bill. It all has to do with politics. According to *POLITICO* this morning, the Republican leader, Senator McCONNELL, told his Members behind closed doors that "regardless of tweaks to the bill . . . approving the Commission could hurt the party's midterm election message."

Again, that is a quote from a report in *POLITICO* magazine or *POLITICO* newsletter—whatever *POLITICO* is. Let me repeat that. According to this report, the Republican leader of the Senate opposes any independent inquiry into the January 6 insurrection because he is worried the truth could hurt the Republicans politically.

Look, I am sorry if an independent Commission to study an attack on our democracy isn't the Republican ad maker's idea of a good time. This is too important—too important.

We cannot let the Big Lie fester. We cannot let faith in our elections continue to erode. We must get at the truth and restore Americans' confidence in this beautiful, noble, ongoing experiment in democracy.

The Senate will vote on the Commission. I hope our Republican colleagues rise to the occasion.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### REMEMBERING JOHN WARNER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn this morning that our friend and former colleague, Senator John Warner, passed away last night.

By the time I arrived in the Senate, John was already churning a long wake as one of this body's foremost voices on national defense. As a wartime veteran of the Navy and Marine Corps, he was deeply devoted to the men and women who serve in uniform.

As a proud Virginian, John took seriously his Commonwealth's role as host to massive portions of America's military might, including the largest naval base in the world.

As a former Secretary of the Navy, he brought Pentagon clout and technical chops that would help the Senate play a hugely consequential role in defense policy.

John's career was capped, of course, by years as chairman and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee. But John made an even wider impact. My predecessor as chairman of the Rules Committee was a principled patriot across the board.

He was also a truly old-school Virginia gentleman. John knew a thing or two about horseracing, for example, and that is high praise coming from a Kentuckian to a non-Kentuckian.

Members on both sides of the aisle looked to John as a trusted mentor and friend. Our thoughts today are especially with our current colleagues from Virginia. So many Senators, past and present, knew John very well.

Most of all, we are thinking today of his wife Jeanne; his children, Virginia, John, and Mary; and the entire Warner family. The Senate will keep them all in our prayers in the days ahead.

#### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. On a completely different matter, today two Senate committees will consider and vote on two very different pieces of legislation.

Over in the Russell Building, the Environment and Public Works Committee just approved a bipartisan bill, led by Chairman CARPER and Ranking Member CAPITO, to invest in better roads and bridges for the American people.

This would be the first major action on surface transportation since the FAST Act 6 years ago. It would raise the baseline funding for roads and bridges to an all-time high. And, as expected, our colleagues just reported this bill out unanimously, 20 to 0. That is legislating done right. Our colleagues are modeling the approach that would let Congress build a successful, big-picture infrastructure bill later this year.

Meanwhile, in the Hart Building, the Finance Committee will spend its afternoon marking up a leftwing, partisan bill written fully within the spirit of the Green New Deal: maximum

pain for working American families in exchange for minimal—minimal—environmental gain.

Under the guise of Clean Energy for America, Chairman WYDEN is leading the charge against the most reliable and affordable ways to power our country.

The legislation he has drafted is full of the sort of policies that would increase the price of gas at the pump, hike the tax burden on independent American producers, of course, killing jobs, discourage the industry-led innovations that have already been reducing emissions without hurting workers, and dragging the United States away from energy independence back toward reliance on imports from places like Russia, Venezuela, and the Middle East.

In exchange, the bill would have ordinary Americans subsidize the lifestyle preferences of wealthy people in places like New York and San Francisco.

So one committee unanimously approved a smart, targeted, bipartisan approach to key infrastructure projects that America needs, and another will consider a partisan descendent of the Green New Deal that would raise taxes, probably raise gas prices, and leave us with a less and less reliable electricity grid.

Really, this contrast is a fork in the road that the Biden administration is facing writ large. Which route to take; a lonely road leading to the far left versus a mainstream, bipartisan road leading straight ahead toward practical policies that make American lives actually better?

The Senate knows how to walk that road. This last highway bill passed the Senate with 83 votes. Just last month, we passed a water infrastructure bill with 89 votes.

If President Biden wants to secure lasting solutions, build a lasting legacy, and improve the lives of Americans in practical ways, he has the map in hand. For the sake of the country, let's hope he and his party decide to follow it.

#### ECONOMY

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, on a related matter, the Democrats' far-left turn thus far has affected the entire U.S. economy, and it is hitting working families right where it hurts.

In January, President Biden inherited safe and effective vaccines. He inherited a reopening economy and a country that was sitting on more pent-up savings than anything economists had seen in living memory. That was the condition of the country when the President took office.

The Democrats have already dreamt up a massive, record-shattering Washington spending spree. Like one House Democrat admitted way back at the start of the pandemic, liberals saw the crisis as "a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision."